

# James Chapter 5



# 5:1-6

# Judgment To Come Upon The Rich

James now uses his final words of this letter to encourage his readers. Many were under persecution and finding life very hard. The final part of his letter was therefore designed to finish with an encouraging high.

To help encourage the believers, James begins this chapter speaking to the rich men who were oppressing them (compare to James 2:6).

Sometimes we struggle when the wicked seem to be blessed. So many people who hate God are successful and happy.. but they have their reward now, and only now. Take the time to read the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 73:1-19 – James is encouraging the believers in the same way: to remember that God is in control.

**How does God see the rich and their possessions? Use the table to show the contrast in verses 1-6.**

| Riches  | Corrupted |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Garments</b>   |           |
| <b>Gold and Silver</b>  |           |
| <b>Lived in pleasure and luxury<br/>and nourished your hearts</b> |           |



**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**

Verse 4 is so encouraging! Do you ever feel oppressed or alone? Have you ever been in a state when it all feels too hard and there is no one to turn to? James is telling the believers – including us – that there is one who hears.

**Look up the following verses and note them next to chapter 5:4 in your margin:**

**Luke 18:7**

**Romans 8:28, 38-39**

Verse 7 starts with “Be patient therefore, brethren” referring to the previous verses. As James winds up towards a conclusion it’s worth breaking this down. What does it really mean? Compare it with “Be patient” in James 1:3-4.

|                              | James 1:3-4 | James 5:7 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| The trial:                   |             |           |
| The required characteristic: | Patience    | Patience  |
| The outcome:                 |             |           |

JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS



REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
THE KINGDOM



**“Be patient therefore” - why does James say this? This is obviously an extremely difficult task when enduring trial. Look at verse 4 and write down why the believers and us today can use this as encouragement to try to develop patience:**

---

---

---

---

“Brethren” - we saw earlier (in chapter 1) how often James uses this expression to encourage and show his love for fellow believers. See how many times he uses it in his closing words.

**This is a key phrase throughout James’ letter. Hopefully you coloured this in during the background, but if not, do it now!**

James tells us not only to be patient but also to “stablish our hearts”. Write in your margin next to this “stablish” = to set fast.

List two objectives/changes that will help you to ‘set fast’ your heart for the coming of the Lord. Make them realistic goals! Simple, practical things that you can begin to apply, starting today.

1.

---

2.

---

Once again James challenges us with a short comment in verse 9 with regards to how we see and think about other believers. How easy is it to hold a grudge when we have been wronged - but we mustn't! List two ways of overcoming this (compare to verse 16).

1.

---

2.

---

**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**



**REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
THE KINGDOM**



James knows that patience is a difficult quality to develop and sustain, so he gives two examples of people who had suffered at the hands of their brethren. Using the box below, show how they suffered in this way:

### The prophets – patience in affliction

**Matt 5:12** “for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”

**2 Chron 36:15-16**

**Jer 38:5-6**

**Matt 23:31**

**Acts 7:52**

### Job – endurance in trial

**Job 1:14-15**

**Job 1:18-19**

**Job 2:7**

**Job 6:15,27** Job’s own friends turn against him in his hour of need



**5:13-18**

# Sickness And Healing: Becoming The “Righteous Man”

**Affliction comes in many different forms; James shows how, regardless of the form, we can help heal each other. List all of the actions we can take part in from verses 13-16.**

How often do we truly do these things? To help make these a regular part of our daily life, copy out the box above and stick it on the wall beside your bed, somewhere you'll see it just before you go to sleep.

When all is well and everything is going our way, do we acknowledge God? We can quite often only come to God seriously when there is a problem. James tells us to sing praise to Him when we are merry. What are some things that you could thank God for today?



**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**



**REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
THE KINGDOM**



**THE “RIGHTEOUS MAN”  
HELPING EACH OTHER  
IN SICKNESS AND NEED**



**Take the time to write a short list and spend some time meditating and praying about these things - now! Set aside the next 10 or 20 minutes for this.**



## Sickness And Healing: Becoming The “Righteous Man”

Read verses 13-20 again. There would've been many in the ecclesia in James' day that were sick, and these words would have been a great encouragement. Read the passage again and think of it as a spiritual sickness. These same encouraging words provide help for those that are struggling with their faith.

**(verse 15) “sick” - “to toil, tire due to work, weariness of mind” (different word in v14)**

**(verse 15) “save” - used in a spiritual sense “to deliver or protect” compare to James 1:21; 2:14; 4:12; 5:20**

The following words now seem to have even more power with regards to how we respond to these things.

A “righteous man” is the person that James has been trying to help us become. “Avaieth much” means “strength to overcome.” Think about that in relation to all we have looked at: the constant struggle with sin, oppression, trials, persecution etc. How encouraging to try to be this kind of person, to pray for ourselves and others!

**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**



**REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
THE KINGDOM**



**THE “RIGHTEOUS MAN”  
HELPING EACH OTHER  
IN SICKNESS AND NEED**

But how do we actually begin trying to be this person? Look and list some of the attributes of a righteous man according to James:

James 1:6-8

James 1:20-21

James 2:21-25      Made righteous by faith and works

James 3:18

James 4:3

James 4:8, 10

James 5:7

James 5:16

These words have to leave this page! They have to start being practised in our daily life...



These last two verses speak of those who “err” from the Truth. James chooses to end his letter with these words: we must then pay attention! The last two verses sum up exactly what James was doing by writing the letter, trying to help “save as many souls from death” as he possibly could.

**This is of the utmost relevance to us today; all of us know of a young person or friend who no longer comes to the meeting, or who attend the meeting but live a different life away from it. James tells us that we cannot stand by and just watch!**

When someone begins to wander we can tend to think, “they’ll sort themselves out” or “someone else will call them”. It can be a hard thing to do, but we are required to work with

Gal 6:1, 9-10

Jude :22-23

**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**



**REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF  
THE KINGDOM**



**THE “RIGHTEOUS MAN”  
HELPING EACH OTHER  
IN SICKNESS AND NEED**

James says that in showing someone the error of their ways, however hard this might be, this will save them from death and “hide a multitude of sins”. Their sins are not ‘hidden’ by themselves, but they are covered by Christ through repentance and forgiveness. Need we any greater motivation?

**Fill in the boxes below to show how James and Peter both take up this idea, and how it**

James 5:20

1 Peter 4:8

Proverbs 10:12

What a beautiful ending to a letter sent to a group of believers who were struggling, under trials, with the pressures of the world upon them. This is us today!

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY  
SAVING THOSE WHO  
ERR**



# The Chapter 5 Challenge:

**Get a group of two or three of your friends, and PRACTISE true religion:**

- > "Grudge not one against another" - do you hold a grudge against someone? We might hold these forever if we don't do something now. James is clear - we will be condemned! (5:9) Identify a grudge you have with someone and take action: discuss, forgive, forget.
- > This month, take up the prayer challenge. Get into the habit of praying morning and night. In these prayers, make sure you remember people who are sick, or struggling with their faith.
- > Identify a young person that has dropped off the radar or stopped attending meetings. Ring or SMS them and try to restore contact. Invite them out for a coffee, or shout them a kebab. Try to encourage them to come to the next CYC activity. Share your passion for the truth!

**Challenge themed around James 5:9, 13-18, 19-20**

**JUDGMENT ON RICH  
ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
STRUGGLING BELIEVERS**



**REWARD FOR THE PATIENT  
THE COMING GLORY OF THE  
KINGDOM**



**THE “RIGHTEOUS MAN”  
HELPING EACH OTHER IN  
SICKNESS AND NEED**



**OUR RESPONSIBILITY  
SAVING THOSE WHO  
ERR**



# Study Week 2012: Closing Thoughts

With the closing thoughts of chapter 5, James brings this brief but powerful letter to a close. His letter may have finished, but the lessons and their influence in our lives go on.

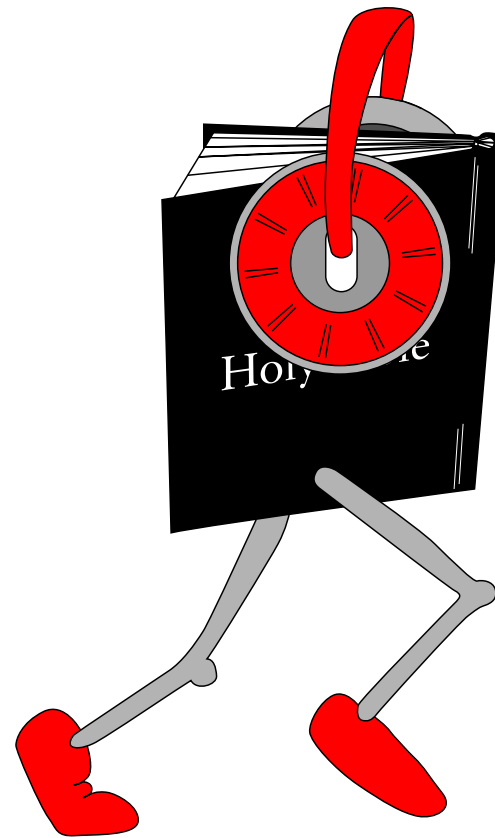
We have seen from his writing the influence God's word can have on our lives, and how the right approach to trials can help our spiritual growth. He shows the importance of our actions being consistent with our faith – how to be doers of the word. We are warned about the use of the tongue, and all the trouble it can cause. We are taught to show the wisdom from above, not the wisdom from beneath, and how to tell the difference between the two. Finally, he has encouraged us to endure unto the end – through trials and temptations – until the coming of the Lord.

In the study of the letter James we have been on a Journey. Through the lessons James learnt in his own life, to the lessons taught to his fellow believers. We have now received these same loving words of rebuke and encouragement. Each of us have related to many lessons in this letter, we have applied challenges to our selves each month to put Gods word into practise. Continue to be challenged. James' main message was to 'be doers of the word' as best we can.

We now have the opportunity to put these lessons into practise as we enjoy a week together. No matter where you are in your life may you be encouraged to read Gods word, listen to it and live it.

The letter ends with the hope we all have, speaking of Yahweh's gracious act of forgiveness through his Son, when we all will display his wonderful character perfectly.

May we all be there together...



**LISTEN**  
**LIVE**

**STUDY WEEK 2012**

**“Do not merely **listen** to the word,  
and so deceive yourselves. **Do** what  
it says.” (James 1:22)**